



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

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### Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Held Steady in March at 2.9 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 8,000 jobs  
between February 2019 and March 2019—

**RICHMOND**—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate held steady in March at 2.9 percent. The March 2019 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Virginia was down 0.3 percentage point from a year ago. In March, the labor force expanded for the ninth consecutive month by 5,379, or 0.1 percent to set a new record high of 4,360,317, as the number of unemployed increased by 2,089. Household employment increased by 3,290 to set a new high of 4,233,641. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was unchanged at 3.8 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment increased by 8,000 jobs in March to 4,033,600. February's total nonfarm employment was revised downward 400, contributing to what was already a bad month for job creation. In March, private sector employment increased by 7,200 jobs to 3,309,200, while public sector payrolls increased by 800 jobs to 724,400.

From February 2019 to March 2019, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in six major industry divisions, held steady in **mining**, and decreased in the other four. The largest job gain during March occurred in **professional and business services** which increased by 5,000 jobs to 759,900. In March, gains were experienced in one subsector: professional, scientific, and technical services (5,700 jobs). Management of companies held steady with zero growth. Administrative and support services decreased by 700 jobs. The second largest over-the-month gain occurred in **private education and health services** with a gain of 2,800 jobs to 547,400. Other employment gains were: the **leisure and hospitality** sector 1,100 jobs; 800 jobs in **total government**; 400 in **trade and transportation** to 658,800; and 400 jobs in **information** to 65,000. For total government, gains occurred at: federal government (600 jobs) and state

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government (500 jobs), with local government decreasing 300 jobs. The largest loss during March occurred in **finance**, which declined by 1,200 jobs to 205,500. Other employment losses were: **construction** (-500 jobs) to 198,500; **manufacturing** (-500 jobs) to 245,700; and **miscellaneous services** (-300 jobs) to 202,000.

### Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			February 2019 to March 2019		March 2018 to March 2019	
	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>4,033,600</b>	<b>4,025,600</b>	<b>3,998,100</b>	<b>+8,000</b>	<b>+0.2%</b>	<b>+35,500</b>	<b>+0.9%</b>
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>3,309,200</b>	<b>3,302,000</b>	<b>3,277,000</b>	<b>+7,200</b>	<b>+0.2%</b>	<b>+32,200</b>	<b>+1.0%</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>452,100</b>	<b>453,100</b>	<b>444,400</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>+7,700</b>	<b>+1.7%</b>
Mining	7,900	7,900	8,000	0	0.0%	-100	-1.3%
Construction	198,500	199,000	198,000	-500	-0.3%	+500	+0.3%
Manufacturing	245,700	246,200	238,400	-500	-0.2%	+7,300	+3.1%
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>3,581,500</b>	<b>3,572,500</b>	<b>3,553,700</b>	<b>+9,000</b>	<b>+0.3%</b>	<b>+27,800</b>	<b>+0.8%</b>
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	<b>2,857,100</b>	<b>2,848,900</b>	<b>2,832,600</b>	<b>+8,200</b>	<b>+0.3%</b>	<b>+24,500</b>	<b>+0.9%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	658,800	658,400	662,000	+400	+0.1%	-3,200	-0.5%
Information	65,000	64,600	68,000	+400	+0.6%	-3,000	-4.4%
Finance	205,500	206,700	207,500	-1,200	-0.6%	-2,000	-1.0%
Professional and Business Services	759,900	754,900	746,300	+5,000	+0.7%	+13,600	+1.8%
Education and Health Services	547,400	544,600	539,700	+2,800	+0.5%	+7,700	+1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	418,500	417,400	407,900	+1,100	+0.3%	+10,600	+2.6%
Miscellaneous Services	202,000	202,300	201,200	-300	-0.1%	+800	+0.4%
<b>Government</b>	<b>724,400</b>	<b>723,600</b>	<b>721,100</b>	<b>+800</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>+3,300</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>
Federal Government	180,400	179,800	178,500	600	+0.3%	+1,900	+1.1%
State Government	160,800	160,300	160,200	+500	+0.3%	+600	+0.4%
Local Government	383,200	383,500	382,400	-300	-0.1%	+800	+0.2%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From March 2018 to March 2019, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 35,500 jobs, or 0.9 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 60 consecutive months and has continued to strengthen over the last several months. In March, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 32,200 jobs, while employment in the public sector increased as well by 3,300 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, seven of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while the other four experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 13,600 jobs (+1.8 percent).

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The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, up 10,600 jobs (+2.6 percent). **Private education and health services** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain of 7,700 jobs (+1.4 percent). Other gains were in **manufacturing**, up 7,300 jobs (+3.1 percent); **total government** was up by 3,300 jobs (+0.5 percent), with gains in federal (1,900 jobs), local (800 jobs), and state government employment (600 jobs); **miscellaneous services**, up 800 jobs (+0.4 percent); and **construction**, up 500 jobs (+0.3 percent). The largest job loss was in **trade and transportation**, down 3,200 jobs (-0.5 percent). The second largest was in **information**, down 3,000 jobs (-4.4 percent). The other losses were: **finance**, down 2,000 jobs (-1.0 percent) and **mining**, down 100 jobs (-1.3 percent).

### Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			February 2019 to March 2019		March 2018 to March 2019	
	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>4,033,600</b>	<b>4,025,600</b>	<b>3,998,100</b>	<b>+8,000</b>	<b>+0.2%</b>	<b>+35,500</b>	<b>+0.9%</b>
<b>Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA</b>	77,300	76,900	77,600	+400	+0.5%	-300	-0.4%
<b>Charlottesville MSA</b>	119,500	119,200	118,300	+300	+0.3%	+1,200	+1.0%
<b>Harrisonburg MSA</b>	69,000	68,700	68,200	+300	+0.4%	+800	+1.2%
<b>Lynchburg MSA</b>	106,000	105,700	104,800	+300	+0.3%	+1,200	+1.1%
<b>Northern Virginia MSA</b>	1,504,400	1,498,400	1,480,800	+6,000	+0.4%	+23,600	+1.6%
<b>Richmond MSA</b>	681,100	681,700	676,000	-600	-0.1%	+5,100	+0.8%
<b>Roanoke MSA</b>	163,400	162,900	161,100	+500	+0.3%	+2,300	+1.4%
<b>Staunton-Waynesboro MSA</b>	51,600	51,400	50,600	+200	+0.4%	+1,000	+2.0%
<b>Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA</b>	794,000	792,900	793,400	+1,100	+0.1%	+600	+0.1%
<b>Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA</b>	65,200	64,900	64,300	+300	+0.5%	+900	+1.4%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

**Seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In March, nine metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, while one experienced losses. The largest absolute job gain occurred in Northern Virginia (+6,000 jobs). Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, with a gain of 1,100 jobs, had the second largest job gain. The other metropolitan areas that experienced gains were: Roanoke (+500 jobs); Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+400 jobs); Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, and Winchester (+300 jobs each); and Staunton-Waynesboro (+200 jobs). The only job loss occurred in Richmond (-600 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in nine of the ten metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 23,600 jobs (+1.6 percent). Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 5,100 jobs (+0.8 percent), and Roanoke was ranked third, with a gain of 2,300 jobs (+1.4 percent). The other over-the-year job gains occurred in: Charlottesville and Lynchburg (+1,200 jobs each); Staunton-Waynesboro (+1,000 jobs);

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Winchester (+900 jobs); Harrisonburg (+800 jobs); Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+600 jobs). The only job losses occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (-300 jobs).

## NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point in March to 3.0 percent, and was down 0.2 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 5,268, household employment increased by 42,784, and the labor force increased by 37,516. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was down 0.2 percentage point in March to 3.9 percent.

Compared to last month, the March **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 170,600 manufacturing production workers decreased by 0.3 hour to 39.4 hours, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.14 to \$19.81, and average weekly earnings decreased by \$11.51 to \$780.51. Compared to last March, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 0.4 hour, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.06, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$10.32.

*The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of March 10-16, 2019.*

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the March local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The data will be available on our website, [www.VirginiawLMI.com](http://www.VirginiawLMI.com).

The April statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, May 17, 2019.

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